PATENT

PENDING CLAIMS AS AMENDED

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-48 (Canceled).

49. (New) A method for software configuration management for a computing device
having an authentication status, the method comprising:

receiving a request to load available software into an application area of the computing
device;

determining the authentication status of the computing device, wherein the computing
device's authentication status is positive if at least one piece of the computing device's resident
software has been authenticated, and the computing device's authentication status is negative if
none of the computing device's resident software has been authenticated;

determining an authentication status of the available software, wherein the available
software's authentication status is positive if the available software has been authenticated by the
computing device, and the available software's authentication status is negative if the available
software has not been authenticated by the computing device; and

changing the computing device's authentication status to positive and loading the
available software if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be negative
and the resident software's authentication status is determined to be positive.

50. (New) A method for software configuration management as defined in claim 49,
wherein the authentication status of the computing device cannot be changed from positive to
negative.

51. (New) A method for software configuration management as defined in claim 49,
wherein:

the computing device's authentication status is represented by a hardware fuse; and

the computing device's authentication status is changed to positive by blowing the hardware fuse using an electrical current, whereby the computing device's authentication status is negative before the hardware fuse is blown, and the computing device's authentication status is positive after the hardware fuse is blown.

52. (New) A method for software configuration management as defined in claim 49, wherein the authentication status of the computing device is indicated by a flag.

53. (New) A method for configuration management as defined in claim 49, wherein the computing device is a portable wireless communication device.

54. (New) A method for software configuration management as defined in claim 49, wherein:

the computing device's resident software comprises a plurality of resident software programs;

each resident software program has a separate authentication flag to indicate its authentication status; and

computing device's authentication status is determined using the separate authentication flags of the plurality of resident software programs.

55. (New) A method for software configuration management as defined in claim 49, further comprising:

loading the available software if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be positive and the resident software's authentication status is determined to be positive, or if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be negative and the resident software's authentication status is determined to be negative; and

rejecting the available software if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be positive and the resident software's authentication status is determined to be negative.

56. (New) A method for software configuration management as defined in claim 49, wherein the at least one piece of the computing device's resident software is unrelated to the available software.

57. (New) A method for software configuration management as defined in claim 49, wherein the at least one piece of the computing device's resident software corresponds to the available software.

58. (New) A method for software configuration management as defined in claim 49, wherein the at least one piece of the computing device's resident software is operating system software.

59. (New) A computing device having software configuration management, comprising:
a processor configured to:

    receive a request to load available software into an application area of the computing device;

    determine an authentication status of the computing device, wherein the computing device's authentication status is positive if at least one piece of the computing device's resident software has been authenticated, and the computing device's authentication status is negative if none of the computing device's resident software has been authenticated;

    determine an authentication status of the available software, wherein the available software's authentication status is positive if the available software has been authenticated by the computing device, and the available software's authentication status is negative if the available software has not been authenticated by the computing device; and

    change the computing device's authentication status to positive and loading the available software if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be negative and the resident software's authentication status is determined to be positive; and

    a memory coupled to the processor for storing data.

60. (New) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 59, wherein the authentication status of the computing device cannot be changed from positive to negative.

61. (New) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 59, wherein:

the computing device's authentication status is represented by a hardware fuse: and

the computing device's authentication status is changed to positive by blowing the hardware fuse using an electrical current, whereby the computing device's authentication status is negative before the hardware fuse is blown, and the computing device's authentication status is positive after the hardware fuse is blown.

62. (New) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 59, wherein the authentication status of the computing device is indicated by a flag.

63. (New) A computing device having configuration management as defined in claim 59, wherein the computing device is a portable wireless communication device.

64. (New) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 59, wherein:

the computing device's resident software comprises a plurality of resident software programs;

each resident software program has a separate authentication flag to indicate its authentication status; and

computing device's authentication status is determined using the separate authentication flags of the plurality of resident software programs.

65. (New) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 59, wherein the processor is further configured to:

load the available software if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be positive and the resident software's authentication status is determined to be positive, or if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be negative and the resident software's authentication status is determined to be negative; and

reject the available software if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be positive and the resident software's authentication status is determined to be negative.

66. (New) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 59, wherein the at least one piece of the computing device's resident software is unrelated to the available software.

67. (New) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 59, wherein the at least one piece of the computing device's resident software corresponds to the available software.

68. (New) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 59, wherein the at least one piece of the computing device's resident software is operating system software.

69. (New) A computer-readable medium embodying instructions which, when executed by a processor, implement a method for configuration management for a computing device, the method comprising:

receiving a request to load available software into an application storage area of the computing device;

determining an authentication status of the computing device, wherein the computing device's authentication status is positive if at least one piece of the computing device's resident software has been authenticated, and the computing device's authentication status is negative if none of the computing device's resident software has been authenticated;

determining an authentication status of the available software, wherein the available software's authentication status is positive if the available software has been authenticated by the computing device, and the available software's authentication status is negative if the available software has not been authenticated by the computing device; and

changing the computing device's authentication status to positive and loading the available software if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be negative and the resident software's authentication status is determined to be positive.

70.　(New)　A computer-readable medium as defined in claim 69, wherein the authentication status of the computing device cannot be changed from positive to negative.

71.　(New) A computer-readable medium as defined in claim 69, wherein the computing device is a portable wireless communication device.

72.　(New) A computer-readable medium as defined in claim 69, wherein:

the computing device's resident software comprises a plurality of resident software programs;

each resident software program has a separate authentication flag to indicate its authentication status; and

computing device's authentication status is determined using the separate authentication flags of the plurality of resident software programs.

73.　(New)　A computer-readable medium as defined in claim 69, the method further comprising:

loading the available software if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be positive and the resident software's authentication status is determined to be positive, or if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be negative and the resident software's authentication status is determined to be negative; and

rejecting the available software if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be positive and the resident software's authentication status is determined to be negative.

74. (New) A computer-readable medium as defined in claim 69, wherein the at least one piece of the computing device's resident software is unrelated to the available software.

75. (New) A computer-readable medium as defined in claim 69, wherein the at least one piece of the computing device's resident software corresponds to the available software.

76. (New) A computer-readable medium as defined in claim 69, wherein the at least one piece of the computing device's resident software is operating system software.

77. (New) A computing device having software configuration management, comprising:

means for receiving a request to load available software into the computing device;

means for determining an authentication status of the computing device, wherein the computing device's authentication status is positive if at least one piece of the computing device's resident software has been authenticated, and the computing device's authentication status is negative if none of the computing device's resident software has been authenticated;

means for determining an authentication status of the available software, wherein the available software's authentication status is positive if the available software has been authenticated by the computing device, and the available software's authentication status is negative if the available software has not been authenticated by the computing device; and

means for changing the computing device's authentication status to positive and loading the available software if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be negative and the resident software's authentication status is determined to be positive.

78. (New) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 77, wherein the authentication status of the computing device cannot be changed from positive to negative.

79. (New) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 77, wherein the authentication status of the computing device is indicated by a flag.

80. (New) A computing device having configuration management as defined in claim 77, wherein the computing device is a portable wireless communication device.

81. (New) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 77, wherein:

the computing device's resident software comprises a plurality of resident software programs;

each resident software program has a separate authentication flag to indicate its authentication status; and

computing device's authentication status is determined using the separate authentication flags of the plurality of resident software programs.

82. (New) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 77, further comprising:

means for loading the available software if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be positive and the resident software's authentication status is determined to be positive, or if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be negative and the resident software's authentication status is determined to be negative; and

means for rejecting the available software if the computing device's authentication status is determined to be positive and the resident software's authentication status is determined to be negative.

83. (New) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 77, wherein the at least one piece of the computing device's resident software is unrelated to the available software.

84. (New) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 77, wherein the at least one piece of the computing device's resident software corresponds to the available software.

85. (New) A computing device having software configuration management as defined in claim 77, wherein the at least one piece of the computing device's resident software is operating system software.